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081542Z Jun 00

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	ANHR-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00
	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	STR-00	USIE-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/007W

-----60A652 081537Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6248  
INFO NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
DEPTTREAS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 003094

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF, AF/S ATTN: POWELL, RENDER, SCHNEIDMAN,  
GURNEY  
TREASURY FOR ED BARBER, GRACE SONE  
STATE PASS USTR/RWHITTAKER  
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/08/10

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES STATE-SPONSORED  
VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION WITH A PROGRESSIVE MINISTER

CLASSIFIED BY ECON/COMM OFFICER MARK PROKOP, REASONS  
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1.5 (B), (D)

1. (C) SUMMARY: IN A SERIES OF CALLS BEING MADE ON  
SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ON JUNE 8 AMBASSADOR AND  
ECONOFF MET WITH SIMON K. MOYO, MINISTER OF MINES,  
ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM, TO DISCUSS CONDITIONS IN  
ZIMBABWE RELATED TO THE ELECTIONS, AND OUR ABHORRENCE  
OF THE STATE-SPONSORED VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION THAT  
HAS OCCURRED TO DATE. MOYO, CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE  
A ZANU-PF PROGRESSIVE, WAS GLIB, DISPLAYED AN  
ADMIRABLE BOB-AND-WEAVE TECHNIQUE, AND PARROTED THE  
PARTY LINE. HIS EXPRESSED A PERSONAL DISDAIN OF  
VIOLENCE, LABELING IT GOOD FOR NO ONE, BUT CLAIMED  
THAT BOTH PARTIES WERE EQUALLY TO BLAME FOR ITS  
OCCURRENCE. HE ALSO CRITICIZED THE NATIONAL  
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE (NDI) REPORT ON UNSATISFACTORY  
ELECTION CONDITIONS, POSTULATING THAT A NINE-DAY TRIP  
WITH VISITS TO ONLY THREE LOCATIONS WAS INSUFFICIENT  
TO ACCURATELY ASSESS TRUE CONDITIONS ON THE GROUND.  
END SUMMARY.

2. (C) THE AMBASSADOR KICKED OFF THE MEETING BY  
ASKING IF A FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE IN THE INDEPENDENT  
NEWSPAPER "THE DAILY NEWS", PROCLAIMING THAT "TOP  
ZANU-PF LEADERS CALL FOR END TO VIOLENCE" WAS  
CORRECT. DODGING THE DIRECT QUESTION, MINISTER MOYO  
LAMENTED THE EXISTENCE OF VIOLENCE AND ATTRIBUTED IT  
TO THE EXISTENCE, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE  
INDEPENDENCE, OF AN ACTUAL, VIABLE, AND ORGANIZED  
OPPOSITION, FIELDING 120 CANDIDATES. "IT HAS RAISED  
THE TEMPERATURE", HE STATED, "ESPECIALLY SINCE BOTH  
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SIDES VIEW THEMSELVES AS THE WINNERS." BOTH PARTIES  
HAVE CAUSED THE VIOLENCE HE CONTINUED, AND THE  
LEADERS OF BOTH NEED TO CONTROL THEIR FOLLOWERS. WE  
ARE DOING THAT NOW, HE ADMITTED, TELLING US THAT THE  
JUNE 7 POLITBURO MEETING PARTICIPANTS DECIDED THAT  
THE RULING PARTY WOULD PUBLICLY BEGIN CALLING FOR AN  
END TO THE VIOLENCE. THE POLICE NEED TO DO THEIR  
JOB, HE ADDED, AND THAT SHOULD START NOW HE TOLD US,  
INFERRING THAT THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT BY  
THE OFFICIAL DECISION-MAKING ORGAN.

3. (C) THE AMBASSADOR ACKNOWLEDGED THE MINISTER'S  
HIGH-MINDED SENTIMENTS, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE  
RULING PARTY HAS BEEN THE CLEAR AND EXCESSIVE  
WRONG DOER TO DATE. AFTER AGAIN SINGING A PSALM OF  
THE MERITS OF PEACE, THE WAR VETERAN AND CABINET  
MEMBER REITERATED THE RULING PARTY'S WISE, NEW,  
PEACE-FOCUSED PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN, AND AGAIN  
BLAMED THE OPPOSITION FOR CAUSING VIOLENCE. HE  
PROUDLY CITED THE EXAMPLE OF THE AFTER-BUSINESS-HOURS

POSTERING OF ZANU-PF HEADQUARTERS IN CHINHOYI WITH MDC (MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE) POSTERS BY UNKNOWN PERPETRATORS. "IMAGINE THE VIOLENCE THAT SUCH AN ACT WOULD HAVE CAUSED", HE PLEADED, "IF ANYONE HAD BEEN IN THE BUILDING." WHEN THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THE ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE METED OUT WITHIN HITLER HUNZVI'S MEDICAL SURGERY, THE MINISTER COULD ONLY REPEAT A MANTRA OF "UNPALATABLE, UNPALATABLE...."

14. (C) WHEN THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THE BEATINGS AND  
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INTIMIDATION OF EDUCATORS (CITING RAPES, HOUSEBURNINGS AND NEAR-FATAL BEATINGS), THE MINISTER INFORMED US THAT TEACHERS WHO DIGRESS FROM THE CURRICULUM TO PREACH THE MERITS OF THE OPPOSITION MUST BE DISCIPLINED; THOUGH HE SUBSEQUENTLY ADMITTED THAT AN ADMINISTRATIVE MEANS EXISTED FOR THIS. WHEN ECONOFF POINTED OUT THAT FOR YEARS THE RULING PARTY HAS DIRECTED AND ENCOURAGED TEACHERS TO DIGRESS FROM THE CURRICULUM AND PREACH THE MERITS OF ZANU-PF; MOYO RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS ONLY THE INCULCATION OF "HISTORY", WHICH NONE COULD FIND FAULT WITH. "THE STORY OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE AND THE GLORIOUS ROLE OF ZANU-PF IN ITS SUCCESS" HE CROONED, "IS OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE AND CAN NEVER BE QUESTIONED OR DENIED US." "I AM A VETERAN AND IT IS OUR RIGHT", HE SUMMARILY DECLARED, AS HE HASTENED OFF TO A MEETING WITH A DELEGATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTION OBSERVERS.

15. COMMENT: WE CAME, SPOKE SERIOUSLY, AND MINISTER MOYO PERFORMED. FROM OUR OBSERVATION HE NEVER ONCE STEPPED OUT OF HIS ACCOMPLISHED PLAYACTING. PERHAPS HE HAS BEEN AT IT SO LONG THAT THE DISTINCTION

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 HARARE 003094

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BETWEEN SELF AND DRAMATIS PERSONA HAS BECOME BLURRED  
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OR NONEXISTENT. HIS COMMENTS REVEAL THAT THE STATE MACHINE MARCHES ON IN LOCK STEP WITH THE RULING PARTY TOWARDS THE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN TWO WEEKS, EXECUTING A BATTLE PLAN THAT MAY BE GROWING INCREASINGLY INCORRECT IN A SHIFTING ENVIRONMENT. WE EXPECT THAT THEY WILL PREACH PEACE BUT CONTINUE TO ORCHESTRATE SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF VIOLENCE. END COMMENT.

MCDONALD

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